



Date: January 7, 2011
To: MTC Planning Committee, ABAG Administrative Committee, Joint Policy Committee
From: Ken Kirkey, ABAG Planning Director
Subject: Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) - Initial Vision Scenario

This Initial Vision Scenario will provide a preliminary assessment of the Bay Area's future development, including land use patterns and distribution of housing and jobs. It will also provide a first analysis of the future region's performance on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions as well as other adopted regional performance targets.

The Initial Vision Scenario is being developed with input from local jurisdictions and county Congestion Management Agencies (CMA). The Initial Vision Scenario serves as a starting point for the development, analysis and discussion of detailed SCS scenarios occurring over most of this year, and leading to a preferred SCS by early 2012.

UPDATE ON KEY ACTIVITIES

1. City Council Presentations

In December 2010, ABAG and MTC provided planning directors and CMAs a report and visual material to present before their city councils to explain the SCS and the process for local government input into the strategy. Over the past month, a few cities have already scheduled their presentations or presented before their city councils. Other cities are working on this task; some are seeking collaboration from the CMA for the presentation. Some elected officials serving on ABAG and MTC boards have offered to make the presentation for their peers.

2. Input from local jurisdictions

To provide for local agency input to the land use element of the Initial Vision Scenario, ABAG sent a request for information to all city and county planning directors on growth potential in their respective jurisdictions. Local jurisdictions identified places that can accommodate the region's future population growth and employment and suggested policies, strategies, and incentives to support this growth. More than 90 percent of all cities submitted a response by January 5, 2011.

The transportation element will be based on the Transportation 2035 plan, with some revisions to support mobility for projected population and employment growth identified in Initial Vision Scenario's land use element; staff is working with CMA staffs to identify needed revisions.

3. Assessment of growth and future land use pattern

Based on local input, ABAG staff is currently defining an Initial Vision Scenario land use strategy that accommodates 3.6 million households and 4.4 million jobs by 2035. This land use strategy will focus on transit corridors, Priority Development Areas and new opportunity areas for sustainable development proposed by local jurisdictions. The Initial Vision Scenario will identify key policies, strategies, and investments that will be required to support the proposed land use pattern. Land use and transportation forecast models will be used to analyze the Initial Vision Scenario and assess how it addresses adopted performance targets.

4. Release of the Initial Vision Scenario

The Initial Vision Scenario will be released at the meeting of the ABAG Administrative Committee, MTC Planning Committee, and Joint Policy Committee on March 11, 2011.

The Initial Vision Scenario will include

1. A report that describes the concept, policies, and strategies.
2. A set of maps that describes places that will accommodate sustainable development
3. A presentation that describes the approach, benefits, and resources that would be needed to implement the Initial Vision Scenario.

This Scenario release will kick off a series of public workshops throughout the region, and be used to begin discussion of more detailed SCS scenarios that will be assessed throughout the rest of the year.

Staff will provide additional details on the Initial Vision Scenario development at your meeting.